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# JOURNAL OF THE BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

VOLUME V, #3

Fall 1994

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AN INTRIGUING COUNTERSTAMP...

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JOURNAL OF THE  
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS SOCIETY

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Published quarterly, and dedicated to bringing together a group of people with similar interests in Barber Coinage for the purpose of advancing appreciation of this series.

— David Lawrence, Editor - *Barber Coin Collectors' Society Journal*

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Philip Carrigan.....President  
David Lawrence .....Editor, BCCS Journal  
Paul Reuter.....Secretary/Treasurer  
John Feigenbaum .....Typesetting/Layout, BCCS Journal

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Future deadlines for copy and ads are September 1, December 1, March 1 and June 1.

*To place display advertising in the BCCS Journal contact:*

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fax: (804) 424-2363

## ADVERTISING POLICY

Any dealer or collector member in good standing of the Barber Coin Collectors' Society who is at least 18 years of age may place advertising in the Society's *Journal*. Minors under the age of 18 must first provide a "certificate of responsibility" from their parent or guardian.

Only ads for Barber coins and associated supplies are permitted, although advertisers may provide generic descriptions of any other coins they sell. Mail bid advertising cannot be accepted.

The Publisher reserves the right to edit or decline advertising that is in conflict with BCCS bylaws. Unless otherwise specified in the ad, advertisers must accept the return of merchandise in the original holders that bears a postmark within 7 business days of the receipt by the customer. Any purchaser wanting to get an independent opinion of any coin must first request permission from the advertiser within the 7-day return period.

Advertisers must properly describe the condition of all coins advertised. Unless otherwise noted, the grading description will be in accordance with the "Official ANA Grading Standards for United States Coins."

Articles, questions, comments and ads are welcome and should be forwarded to: Editor, BCCS; 6095 Indian River Rd, #204; Va. Beach, VA 23467

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## NOTICE

Part 2 of David Lawrence's Article Titled, "Barber Halves – Highly Prized But Hard To Find" will be published in the next BCCS Journal. The results from the last Journal's survey will also be published next time.

## We Need Your Articles!!!

The BCCS *Journal* needs your input! If you've got some information to share with the rest of the Society, we'd like to publish it.

Please send submissions (handwritten, typed and/or on-diskette) to:

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## FROM THE EDITOR

### MEMBERSHIP IS UP!!!

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We have a new president! Phil Carrigan of Illinois. Phil is a pharmaceutical researcher by trade and has been a Barber enthusiast for many years (he loves toning). Phil has attended every ANA since Cincinnati and particularly enjoys talking to the old timers like Reed Hawn and John J. Ford Jr. He is also a sucker for a good book (on numismatics) - as well as old auction catalogs, journals and price lists. Phil is a charter member of BCCS. He invites you all to write him at 1105 N. Crescent Ct. Round Lake, IL, 60073.

Also, please note we have streamlined our organization. We are not a pretentious society and don't need a long list of officers. Please, nobody take offense. Everyone is welcome to contribute in any and every way they can — help us hold regional meetings, man our table at the ANA, submit material for the journal, solicit new members, etc. etc.

Membership in the BCCS is growing once again — up to 284 as of this writing — and as you can see, we are getting some interesting articles submitted. Please keep it up! Drop us a note about your Barber collecting experiences - how you got started, how you came across an interesting variety, a rare piece etc. If you have an interesting coin we can get it photographed and include it in the next issue. Drop me a note or send it to our P.O. Box.

Also, don't forget members can advertise Barbers in the journal. The cost is minimal-but it serves to help members interact.

Please don't call John or me about Society business - but do write or send anything you think would be of interest to all of us. Deadline for the next issue (ads & articles) is November 1st.



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## ON THE COVER...

### FORD COUNTERSTAMP...

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While at a show in (not surprisingly) Dearborne, Michigan a few months back I was offered this coin by a local dealer who had picked it up as part of an estate. Apparently the Ford Motor Company has a history of counterstamping coins near the turn of the century. In all the shows I attend, I rarely, if ever, see interesting counterstamps on Barber coinage so I grabbed this one. Anyone else who has one is encouraged to send a picture(s) to the Society so we can show it for everyone..

*John Feigenbaum*

## BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Detroit, Michigan, the 103 rd annual meeting of the American Numismatic Association and the usual summer convergence of the numismatists, are the primary thoughts in mind now. The Detroit ANA Convention was great; the city and its Cobo Hall were fine (too bad for those who stayed away or argued against this location).

Most individuals will agree that the big news at the ANA concerning Barbers would be the 1901-S dime, quarter and half dollar sold in the Heritage auction. These BU coins, found in a Reno school cornerstone, were slabbed by NGC and/or PCGS and given an arguably reasonable level of hype in the sale catalog (maybe a bit more-say, Hype+). The MS-65 'white' dime and quarter did not advance from the opening book bids of \$3625 and \$26,500, suggesting a reserve was unmet. The half at MS-63 sold for a hammer price of \$3,500 to a well-known Barber specialist dealer. For those who may not attend the ANA or auctions, this particular activity requires endurance: the half crossed the block at 2:00AM with a crowd of 40 bidders still present in the room.

Our annual BCCS meeting, held Saturday at 9:00AM, found 14 collectors present plus a reporter from *Coin World*. An update of membership (over 284 now) and a brief report on the treasury balance (over \$3,000) were provided. Members shared their collecting interests and a highly provoking discussion of rarity and pricing of Barbers occurred between long-time dealers Jack Beymer and Dave Lawrence. Two thoughts for 1995 and Anaheim: should we meet earlier in the week (e.g. Thursday or Friday) and can we adequately schedule coverage for our convention table (that means volunteer staffing)?

I wish to encourage each member to consider sharing their interest in Barbers with the rest of us. I am interested in hearing from anyone with such ideas. Our editor, Dave Lawrence, or I would be pleased to help you polish an article or suggest information sources, whether people or printed matter. The *Journal* can be filled with material from other sources but our strength and vitality depends on each member sharing their interests and experience with all of us.

*Numismatic regards,  
Phil Carrigan*



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## BARBER DIMES... SO FINE

*by Jack White*

Last month at a mid-size coin show, I spotted a 1907-O dime graded F-12 priced at twelve dollars. After taking a quick glance to check for any problems (there were none) I offered the dealer ten. Neither of us checked the Gray Sheet (monthly CDN)- and he sold it. I knew I was getting a nice deal on it but wasn't sure how nice until I checked my Gray Sheet a few minutes later. Bid on the coin in Fine was \$20! The dealer obviously had had the coin for awhile-he probably paid \$8 for it, and was happy to make a slight profit. I knew the bid on it had gone up but not how much. I've been buying the semi-keys and keys over the past two years, when I've been able to find them. I know they've gone up-but how much? Last week I decided to find out.

I took the October 1992 monthly summary (CDN) and compared the prices for Fine, VF, XF and MS63 grades to the April 1994 issue – a year and a half time span. There were 31 dates with a bid price of \$10 or more in Fine in October '92 (see *Table 1*). 29 of these coins have increased-only the 93-P and 93-S remained unchanged. These dates worth \$1,951 in October 1992 have risen to \$2,734 in April 1994, for a nice 40.17% jump!

As you can see from *Table 1*, the values ranged from the ten dollar minimum (92-O, 05-O, 15-S) to the 1895-O at \$425. The coins were up substantially at both ends of the spectrum. The nine coins priced below \$20 (Oct '92) increased 61.5%! The seven coins at the top with a \$100 minimum (in fine) bid increased at a 34.3% rate. Three dates: the 05-O, 09-D and 15-S increased 100%, 100%, and 120% respectively!

I assumed the grade of fine had the most significant increase and I was correct. However I was dead wrong on the next grade with the biggest jump. I compared four grades: VG, XF and MS63. The dimes increased 13.6% in VG, 11.7% in XF, and only 1.2% in MS-63. The coins are at least obtainable in VG-. They're impossible in Problem-Free XF I guessed that XF, being an advanced collector grade, would have appreciated more than VG – generally not an acceptable collector grade. As you can see though, the VG grade had a slightly higher percentage gain. MS-63 was quite another story, though. The 31 coins increased only 1.2%! Keep in mind these aren't investor grade type coins. These are key and semi-key coins in nice collector uncirculated grades. Hopefully all of us can own at least one example of these beautiful coins.

In *Table 2*, I broke down the New Orleans issues. The trends were very similar to *Table 1*. The 1907-O the date that I started with has increased from \$9.50 to \$20 – a 110.5% jump in eighteen months! The difference is slight between the two charts with the exception of MS63. Here the increase for the seventeen New Orleans coins is 8.4%-not all that great, but significantly better percentage wise than the 1.2%



of Table 1. Like in Table 1, the lower priced coins tended to do better than the higher ones. The five New Orleans issues priced below \$10 i Fine (Oct '92) increased 53.1%. The Five Highest issues (93-O through 97-O) increased at a rate of 29.6%. Again- while the higher priced ones probably were not the remaining issues, the seven mid-priced dimes posted an impressive 50.9% gain in the eighteen months.

**Table 1: % Increase Fine 10/92-04/94**

	F		VF		XF		MS-63		% Incr. Fine
	10/92	4/94	10/92	4/94	10/92	4/94	10/92	4/94	10/92-4/94
92-O	\$ 10	\$ 18	\$ 5.5	\$ 6	\$ 27	\$ 22	\$ 250	\$ 225	80.0
92-S	60	100	30	40	90	135	700	675	66.7
93	11	11	6	7	25	25	185	140	0
93-O	51	70	17	19	75	85	400	400	37.2
93-S	16	16	8.5	10	30	30	410	400	0
94	48	65	10.5	11	75	85	400	350	35.4
94-O	90	125	37	46	225	225	2000	1700	38.9
95	175	225	50	60	240	330	725	800	28.6
95-O	425	510	190	200	1050	1300	3300	3750	20.0
95-S	50	75	18.5	20	75	115	950	800	50.0
96	19	28	8.5	10	40	45	325	280	47.4
96-O	120	155	43	54	255	255	1400	1475	29.2
96-S	100	140	37	45	185	200	900	1000	40.0
97-S	30	50	10.5	12	60	65	650	700	66.7
97-O	105	165	36	40	235	235	1050	1100	57.1
98-O	40	55	5.5	6.75	90	90	800	850	37.5
98-S	11	17	4.5	5.75	27	27	625	850	54.5
99-O	31	45	4.5	5.25	85	85	725	850	45.2
00-O	40	60	6	7.75	120	120	1100	1100	50.0
01-S	125	180	35	38	285	285	1150	1150	44.0
02-S	17	30	5	6	55	55	625	600	76.5
03-S	145	230	30	33	510	540	1100	1200	58.6
04-S	65	80	23	26	175	175	1000	1050	23.1
05-O	10	20	3	3.5	30	30	380	275	100.0
06-O	20	30	3.75	4	33	44	375	200	50.0
08-O	20	30	3.25	3.50	40	42	525	525	50.0
09-D	21	42	5	5.5	60	60	800	700	100.0
09-S	30	55	5	5.75	100	100	725	750	83.3
10-S	18	35	3.5	3.5	40	50	460	500	94.4
13-S	38	50	9	9	135	135	475	425	31.6
15-S	10	22	2.5	2.5	33	33	400	380	120.0
<b>TOTAL</b>									
	\$ 1951.	\$ 2734	\$ 656.5	\$ 745.75	\$ 4,500	\$ 5,028	\$ 24,910	\$ 25,200	
% INCR.	+40.1%		+13.6%		+11.7%		+1.2%		



Table 2: % Increase in O-Mint Dimes Grading Fine 10/92-04/94

	F		VG		XF		MS-63		% Incr. Fine
	10/92	4/94	10/92	4/94	10/92	4/94	10/92	4/94	10/92-4/94
92-0	\$ 10	\$ 18	\$ 5.5	\$ 6	\$ 22	\$ 27	\$ 250	\$ 225	80
93-0	51	70	17	19	75	85	400	400	37.2
94-0	90	125	37	46	225	225	2000	1700	38.9
95-0	425	510	190	200	1050	1300	3300	3750	20.0
96-0	120	155	43	54	255	255	1400	1475	29.2
97-0	105	165	36	40	235	235	1050	1100	57.1
98-0	40	55	5.5	6.75	90	90	800	850	37.5
99-0	31	45	4.5	5.25	85	85	725	850	45.2
00-0	40	60	6	7.75	120	120	1100	1100	50.0
01-0	6	8.75	2.40	2.75	32	32	250	650	45.8
02-0	6.5	8.5	3	3	27	27	250	625	30.8
03-0	4.50	6.75	2.10	2.10	20	20	200	450	50.0
05-0	10	20	3	3.5	30	30	380	275	100.0
06-0	20	30	3.75	4	33	44	375	200	50.0
07-0	9.5	20	2	1.80	18	31	275	250	110.5
08-0	20	30	3.25	3.50	40	42	550	525	50.0
09-0	6	5.75	2.60	2.60	21	21	325	350	-4.2
TOTAL									
	\$ 994.5	\$1332.75	\$366.60	\$408	\$2,378	\$2,669	\$13,630	\$14,775	
% INCR.	+34.0%		+11.3%		+12.2%		+8.4%		

A few observations before closing. There are now more \$100 coins in fine grade on the CDN monthly summary in the Barber dime series than in any other. Only seven coins in *Table 1* increased at a rate of 70% or higher - the 92-O, 02-S, 05-O, 09-D, 09-S, 10-S, and the 15-S. Combined, these coins jumped 91.4% over eighteen months! Three of these, the 09-D, 09-S, and 10-S were pointed out in *The Complete Guide To Barber Dimes* as substantially undervalued. Dave Lawrence was certainly correct on that account! Notice the 1915-S. It had the largest percentage increase in Fine (120%) and yet didn't move at all in VG or XF. Furthermore, it actually fell 5% in MS63. On the XF *Table 1*, less than half the coins registered any increase at all, only 14 of 31 issues. Even though 28 of 31 increases were made on the VG *Table 1*, the gains were slight – the total percentage gain in the VG category was only one-third of the Fine percentage gain. That shows that Fine really is so Fine! ❖

## Back Issues For Sale

Most of the 18 different back-issues of the BCCS Journal are still available! But we are running out... Single copies are for sale @ \$4 each with lower pricing for multiple orders.

Write Secretary/Treasurer Paul Reuter for ordering or call (601)833-5308.

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## NOTICE

The current "membership year" runs from January 1993 to December 1994 and every paid-up member should receive four Journals during this period: one in 1993 and two so far in 1994 with one more to come in December. New members were sent a back issue(s) to bring them in line with the above. Anyone who failed to get their issue should contact me.

Several address changes and corrections have been updated. Further changes should be sent to me.

The next membership period will start in January 1995 for that calendar year. Dues renewal notices will be included in the final 1994 issue of the Journal.

Thanks!

Paul Reuter,  
Secretary/Treasurer  
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## A DIFFERENT BARBER DIME

*by Russell Easterbrooks*

At first glance the 1913 and 1913-S Barber dimes appear the same as those minted before and after, yet there is a difference. The veins in the laurel leaves above the word Liberty are far more detailed than for any other circulating dime.

Most dimes only have partial detail in leaf #3, with the vein running off the edge of the leaf. Leaves #1 and #2 seldom have detail and if there is, it is only a fraction of a vein.

The 1913 dimes have excellent detail in all 3 leaves with partial detail in leaf #4. Leaf #3 has a well centered vein running nearly to the tip of the leaf. This detail is easily seen in grades as low as VF.

To date I have examined 23 1913 dimes in various grades and 12 photo's, which all exhibit very strong detailed leaf veins.

Because this detail does not appear after 1913, alterations must have been made to the master die and not the hub.

The obvious is what you see, the difference is what you find. With our society back on track once again, we need member support, so write a letter to the editor with your finds, suggestions and ideas, it will make a difference.



Leaf detail of most Barber dimes



Leaf detail of 1913 Barber dime



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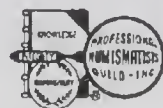
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## TREASURY REPORT

SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 1994

Opening Balance	Jan. 1, 1994		\$ 2,780.53
Receipts	Dues	\$ 450.00	
	Advertising	550.00	
	Returned Check	100.00	
	Back-issue Sales	125.00	
	Voided Check	10.68	
	Total		<u>1,235.68</u>
Funds Available			\$ 4,016.21
Expenditures	Reissued Check	\$ 10.68	
	Refunds	5.00	
	Bank Charges	3.48	
	Postage	37.10	
	ANA Table	85.00	
	Journal Printing	1,000.00	
	Total		<u>\$ 1,141.26</u>
Closing Balance	June 30, 1994		<u><u>\$ 2,874.95</u></u>

*Signed: Paul Reuter, Treasurer*

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## NEWLY DISCOVERED, VERY RARE 1901-O QUARTER

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by Glenn J. Church

Several years ago I purchased a nice flashy white 1901-O Barber quarter from fellow BCCS member Chris Napolitano. This coin is as nice as many MS65 coins I have seen.

The population reports of PCGS and NGC for late 1993 show only 31 coins graded mint state, as follows: 1/MS61, 7/MS62, 7/MS63, 8/MS64, 5/MS65, 3/MS66. Some duplication may exist because of multiple attempts to regrade the same coin.

The late Colonel Gene Edwards wrote an article on Barber Quarters for Coin Dealers Newsletter on December, 1977, and referred to the 1901-O as: "very rare... and vastly undervalued for years."

David Hall in his book, "A Mercenary's Guide to The Rare Coin Market (1987) says of the 1901-O, "Possibly the rarest Barber Quarter; may not exist in gem condition." David Lawrence in his "The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters", (First edition) listed the 1901-O as the second rarest Barber quarter in mint state.

Quite apart from the grading and lovely eye appeal of my coin, its rarity and value is established by the doubling on the reverse legend. The doubling is clear and distinct in the word "Quarter" and also on many portions of the reverse (see photos):

1. "Quarter Dollar" (well pronounced)
2. Arrows and Arrowheads
3. Wing Tip, (left lower edge of the tip of left wing)
4. Top of Eagles head is doubled
5. "United"
6. "States" especially in the "S", "T" & "T"
7. "Of America" (This now shows the entire and completed legend of the coin is doubled and should rule out any claim that the doubling is merely a die shift.
8. Stars are doubled; best seen when viewing the coin upside down.

Walter Breen (*"Complete Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Coins"* – 1988) wrote of only one double die reverse Barber quarter and that was the 1909-O. The same for David Lawrence's book.



1901-O Double Die Reverse Quarter

Breen defined a double die coin as "One which received one of it's several blows from hub or device punch in accidentally imperfect alignments..."

It is most likely that after this article is published many collectors will double check their Barber quarters to try to locate a companion coin to our newly discovered double die 1901-O, and the earlier located 1909-O. Because of the prominent doubling, even circulated coins will disclose doubling. I must give credit to Douglas Winter of Dallas, Texas who discovered the double die reverse on my coin.

My 1901-O possess some reverse rotation counterclockwise which may account for some of the double die result. It also might somehow be related to the new hub introduced in mid-1900.

Breen refers to doubled punched and repunched obverses on several Barber quarters but with the exception of the coins in this article, only once did Breen write of any other Barber quarter with a double reverse die. Until that time comes when another 1901-O doubled die reverse is found, this important coin shall remain unique.

The collector with careful observation of his or her coins, may perhaps experience the joy of finding that rare Barber quarter which originally was suppose to have only 13 arrows within the group of the eagle's left claw, but which actually contains 26.

So collectors, now that you know what to look for, pull out your collection and start looking!



# A Few Better Barbers

1908-O	10¢	F12	Old cleaning, darkish toning	\$30.
1909-D	10¢	F12	Old cleaning, darkish toning	\$45.
1909-S	10¢	F12	Very original, dark grey toning	\$70.
1896-S	25¢	G4	Strong rims, one small obv. nick	\$205.
1897	25¢	AU55+	Strong luster, toning highlights	\$150.
1907-S	25¢	AU50+	White, small rim cut/flaw	\$200.
1893-S	50¢	G6	L & Y show, orig. olive surfaces	\$58.
1894-S	50¢	XF40+	Cleaned & retoned, possible RPM	\$165.
1914-S	50¢		Beautiful original grey surfaces	\$175.

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## RUMINATION ON FORMING A VG SET OF BARBER QUARTERS

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*by Alex Pancheco*

My current effort in building a Barber quarter set is largely the result of a “failure.” I had spent a couple of years very slowly building an XF/AU Barber dime set, without getting very far. As a part-time coin dealer, it has always been difficult to justify keeping high grade and/or better date material for myself. So I had only been able to put coins in the set as duplicates appeared in my stock.

As the result of this fact, and my desire to complete a set of one of the Barber series, I began to look at some other options. After analyzing a number of variables, I chose to build a strict VG quarter set. In this grade, this series offers a combination of relatively inexpensive wholesale and retail prices for the majority of the coins, and a reasonable expectation of success. The vast majority of dates in the quarter series wholesale for less than \$10 each in VG, a not insignificant consideration for a collector on a budget or, in my case, a dealer trying to avoid a conflict of interest with his customers. This grade also preserves the majority of the design features.

Many collectors shy away from the Barber quarters because of the “Big 3” (See Ted Textor’s article in *Journal* Vol.5 #1). While I felt these would certainly be a stumbling block, I felt then and still do that they are still priced somewhat cheaply relative to their true scarcity (with the possible exception of the 1901-S). An additional consideration in favor of the quarter series is that because of collector concerns over the cost of the three key dates, this series tends to be somewhat overlooked, at least in my part of the country, and therefore somewhat undervalued. I am quite often able to purchase better dates or “sleepers” for considerably less than Greysheet Bid. There are also fewer collectors chasing the limited number of coins available.

One of my primary considerations for putting together the collection was that I would purchase coins only at shows I was attending. I did not want to resort to mail order or auction purchases, with the possible exception of the 1901-S if it proves to be unavailable otherwise. I wanted full grade coins, with few problems for the grade, and original surfaces. I have been limiting my search area to the dozen or so shows a year I attend in the Northwest. While this certainly restricts the availability of coins for me to look at, my effort is as much a test of the market in Barber quarters as an attempt to build a set.

One of my most important observations has been on grading. As is often noted in the *Journal* and other publications, overgrading in Barbers is fairly common. Because of the jump in price between VG and F, some less knowledgeable dealers tend to “push a coin’s grade, especially for a better date.” A similar problem occurs with pieces grading between AG and G.

Surprisingly, there is often no break in price for cleaned coins, but by the same token not much in the way of a premium is asked for original pieces if properly graded. In my opinion this is probably due to the small spread between coins in G and VG. Many dealers don’t want to bother with what they consider low value, com-

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mon material. This creates an important opportunity for collectors who are willing to spend the time and effort to look for full-grade, original pieces to build a set.

When I began to put the set together, my expectation was that it would be relatively easy to build the bulk of the set, given the relatively low and steady bid levels. I held a number of assumptions about the Barber quarter series, some of which have proven to be false. For instance, while I knew that full rim, choice VG coins were considerably scarcer than coins in G, perhaps on the scale of ten times or more as scarce, some of the dates that I figured would be "common" have proven to be anything but. For instance, I was not aware of how hard the 1911-D would be to find in any grade. Since then I have become more acquainted with the scarcity of some of the dates through the excellent articles by Bill Cregan in *Journals* past.

Most of the dates in the 1900's have been relatively easy to find, often in multiples, with the obvious exception of the big two, and the less obvious exception of the above mentioned 1911-D and a number of the O mints. The dates in the 1800's are proving considerably harder to locate. I have been buying nice G+ examples as "fillers" until I do locate full VG's. On average, at a small to medium size show, I rarely find more than 3 to 5 coins that meet my standards. Larger shows often do not produce more. This may actually be a function of the low bid levels for these coins as dealers who have to travel long distance or by air often do not bring lower grade Barbers, both due to weight and the cost of recovering expenses. This is an important consideration for the collector, where local coin shops may prove to yield a better crop of coins, even given the disadvantages of looking at a limited number of pieces.

Based on about a year and a half of serious looking, the common statement that VG Barber quarters are about ten times scarcer than coins in lower grades is easily the case. As for the Big Three, the 1896-S has not surprisingly proved the "easiest" to locate, as has been the perception expressed in previous *Journal* articles. I have been fortunate to find two nice original pieces in Good, with strong rims and no problems. VG's however are another matter. The 1913-S I have not been able to find in any grade better than what I would call G/AG, again about what has been common knowledge. The 1901-S proved unlocatable entirely until just recently, when I was pleasantly surprised to see several nice pieces at a large regional show, including a sharp XF. But again, no VG's.

The somewhat unusual pricing structure of Barber quarters (similar Bid levels for common and not-so-common or semi-key coins) has led to some minor coups. For instance, I have been able to locate three 1912-S coins in Fine, which is rated an R-4 base on the BCCS Quarter Survey, for a common date price. Similarly, two R-4 1894-O quarters in Fine are mine at the princely sum of \$12 each. That pesky 1911-D however is no easy task. I was forced to purchase an example in Fine as a filler until I locate a VG.

Additionally, because of the overgrading problems with these coins, I have on occasion intentionally purchased overgraded pieces in order to get choice original pieces, if I felt the price was still right. Considering the fact that I feel all of the



Barber quarter series is undervalued; these are still a bargain in my opinion, as few exceed more than a few dollars.

At this point, I am about two-thirds done with the set. Most pieces missing are from 1893-1898. Strangely enough, most of the coins that I do have in that date run are mintmarked! And, because I find it difficult to walk away from a nice, original properly graded coin, I am well on my way to building Set #2 in Fine+. Hmm, maybe I can use that 1911-D after all. ❖

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## THE REED HAWN COLLECTION — WERE BARBERS ITS CENTERPIECE?

*by Phil Carrigan, NLG*

Stack's offered at auction The Reed Hawn Collection on October 13-14, 1993. If one is not familiar with Reed Hawn, the front cover of the sale catalog signaled this was a great collection and sale. Pictured were two classic United States numismatic rarities;

the 1913 Liberty Head Nickel, and,  
the Mickley, Class I 1804 Silver Dollar

However, there was more than just these coins among the 1300 lots sold as we shall see.

Some background and introduction to Mr. Hawn and this sale may be in order. Unlike most great collections where the numismatics who build them only see them sold at some advanced age or post-mortem, Hawn is alive and in his mid-40s. While numismatics has occupied Mr. Hawn for over 30 years, he previously sold material at auction in 1973 and 1977. Subsequent to each of these sales Hawn had purchased the 1804 Dollar in 1974 and in 1985, the 1913 Nickel.

In this particular sale, Mr Hawn appeared to be presenting some of the best and possibly the final fraction of his United States coins. Offered were subgroups which appeared to represent significant collecting interest including US gold in most denominations except the Quarter Eagle, a run of proof Trade Dollars, seven Gobrecht Dollars, lovely early proof sets, a complete unc set of Buffalos and others I'm ignoring. Additionally, there were select rarities in keeping with the cover coins; those items one has looked forever for and, when one sells the 'set,' wishes to hold on to just that single special piece.

An interesting side-note to this sale is the report that Mr. Hawn conducted some personal campaigning as to what would be offered including his contracting a well-known Barber—specialist—dealer located in Virginia. What was offered in Barbers? Well Besides several nice dimes and half dollars, Hawn parted with a high grade, complete set of Barber Quarters. Among the many high lights were the three keys (1896-S, 1901-S, and 1913-S) in choice BU, some very tough early New Orleans dates in choice BU or better, and two presentation strike or branch mint proofs dated



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1894-S and 1898-O.

The quarters represent the toughest challenge across the three Barber denominations when one attempts a high-grade set. The Reed Hawn quarters were not perfect but must have benefited from many years of patient and diligent searching for the best available specimens. Stack's inability to provide provenances for all but one of Hawn's quarters was disappointing.

This Stack's sale will long be remembered for the cover coins but I believe Reed Hawn placed some other highly regarded items with these two. Certainly his Barber Quarters will be longingly remembered by those of us who appreciate rarity and quality.

### *Epilogue*

A copy of the foregoing article was provided to Mr. Hawn. He graciously responded with the following excerpted remarks:

"You picked out the two most important sets to me... the Buffalo nickel set and the Barber Quarter set... though the quarters weren't perfect, I was pleased. The 1915-P&S and the 1911-D gave me fits in gem condition; much rarer than generally known.

As a side note, I would like to join your organization.

{signed)

Reed

By the time you read this Reed Hawn will be among our ranks as a B.C.C.S. member!



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